

Biography

97TH AIR MOBILITY WING

U.S. Air Force (AETC)

Public Affairs, Altus Air Force Base, Okla. 73523-5047

(580) 481-7700

COLONEL (DR.) CHARLES W. COTTA

Col. (Dr.) Charles W. Cotta is the commander and director of base medical services, 97th Medical Group, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

As commander, he directs the use of base medical resources, arranges for cost-effective, high-quality medical services through Department of Defense or civilian resources, and ensures the medical portion of the base plan supports directed taskings and that medical personnel are appropriately trained.

The colonel is a native of Rockford, Ill. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force June 17, 1973, having served as an aeromedical technician.

He re-entered the U.S. Air Force through the health professional scholarship program in 1976 and was commissioned as a captain in June 1979. Having earned his medical doctor's degree, he completed residency training in aerospace medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, in 1987 and is board certified in that specialty by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.



EDUCATION:

- 1976 Bachelor of science, University of Maryland at College Park
- 1979 Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa
- 1980 Aerospace Medicine Primary Course, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas
- 1981 Tri-Service Combat Casualty Care Course, Fort Sam Houston, Texas
- 1983 PG-2 residency training in diagnostic radiology, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Texas
- 1986 Master's degree in Public Health, University of Texas School of Public Health, San Antonio, Texas
- 1987 Residency in Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas
- 1994 Physicians in Management Course I, II and III, American College of Physician Executives, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
- 1999 Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives, Washington D.C.
- 1999 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. July 1979 - July 1980, Flexible internship, Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
2. July 1980 - June 1981, Flight Surgeon, 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, Seymour-Johnson

- Air Force Base, N.C.
3. July 1981 - June 1982, Chief, Aeromedical Services, 51st Tactical Fighter Wing, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.
 4. July 1982 - June 1983, Chief, Preventive Medicine, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
 5. July 1983 - June 1984, Resident, PG-2 year, diagnostic radiology, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas
 6. July 1984 - September 1985, Aerospace Medicine consultant, School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas
 7. September 1985 - June 1987, Residency in Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas
 8. July 1987 - July 1989, Chief, Aerospace Medicine, 833rd Air Division, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.
 9. July 1989 - June 1990, Chief, Hospital Services, 833rd Air Division, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.
 10. June 1990 - June 1991, Commander, 8th Medical Group, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea
 11. July 1991 - July 1993, Medical inspector, Air Force Inspection Agency, Norton Air Force Base, Calif.
 12. July 1993 - June 1994, Medical Inspector, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.
 13. July 1994 - April 1997, Director, Emerging Technologies, Office of the Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Pentagon
 14. April 1997 - September 2000, Chief, Medical Operations, Headquarters Pacific Air Force, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii
 15. September 2000 - present, Commander, 97th Medical Group, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Presidential Unit Citation
AF Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster
National Defense Medal
Chief Physician Badge
Chief Flight Surgeon Badge

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 22, 1976
Captain	June 3, 1979
Major	June 3, 1985
Lieutenant Colonel	June 3, 1991
Colonel	June 3, 1997

(Current as of August 2001)